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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 09 MAR 2004



WIPO PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference RSJ06901WO		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/00355	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.01.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.02.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G07D11/00			
Applicant DE LA RUE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
  - ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☒ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  20.06.2003	Date of completion of this report  04.03.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer  Verhoef, P  Telephone No. +31 70 340-4235  

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB 03/00355

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

### Description, Pages

1-8 as originally filed

### Claims, Numbers

1-28 received on 23.02.2004 with letter of 19.02.2004

### Drawings, Figures

1-5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
  - ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
  - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: --- --
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
  - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
  - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
  - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
  - ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
  - ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).  
*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-28
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-28
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-28
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

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**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Text for the Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LT LU LV MC MK NL PL PT RO SE SI SK  
TR

**Description, pages:**

1-8 as originally filed

**Claims, No.:**

1-28 as received on 23/02/2004 with letter of 19/02/2004

**Drawings, No.:**

1-5 as originally filed

**1. Reference is made to the following documents:**

D1: US-A-5 156 272 (BOUCHARD CAROLE P ET AL) 20 October 1992 (1992- 10-20)

D2: US-A-5 732 638 (VAN LINT GREG) 31 March 1998 (1998-03-31)

D3: WO 01 29786 A (YAP NYIN KONG) 26 April 2001 (2001-04-26)

D4: GB-A-2 360 327 (SPINNAKER INT LTD) 19 September 2001 (2001-09-19)

**2.1** Document D1 discloses (*cf. column 3, lines 38 - 46*) a document handling machine, a document store, document transportation means, document degradation system, which is responsive to an unauthorised activity in relation to the machine to degrade the documents in the machine. The disclosure is not limited to an application in safe environments (e.g. ATM), but also in non-secure environments (e.g. money carrying bag (*cf. column 3, lines 45,46*)). Figure 15 of the same document D1 discloses that the degradation system is not in the container.

**2.2** In his reasoning, the applicant's representative stated that the examiner has referred

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to a money carrying bag (see paragraph 2.1 above), whilst the international application dealt with a document handling machine comprising a non-secure or low security housing. However, the examiner is still of the preliminary opinion that the applicability of the invention in those non-secure environments (as disclosed in D1 ) teaches the person skilled in the art that a secure environment is not necessary.

Therefore, the subject matter of independent claim 1 does not involve an inventive step as required by the Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT.

- 2.3** The subject matter of the further dependent claims 2 - 16 does not render the claimed invention non-obvious, for the following reasons:
- 2.4** The use of sensors in order to detect 'unauthorised activities', whether comprising or moving, is known for purposes known to the person skilled in the art, and thus does not render the subject matter non-obvious.
- 2.5** Also, networking an ATM with a remote host and remotely initiating processes in an ATM, putting wheels or rollers under a machine, making the cabinet of plastic or thin sheet metal, is known to the person skilled in the art and does not render the subject matter non-obvious.
- 2.6** Document stores comprising an open top tray are known to the person skilled in the art, and does not render the subject matter non-obvious.
- 2.6** The fact that the machine is self-powered can be seen as an obvious feature. The person skilled in the art would very unlikely design a machine that can easily be comprised in case of power-breakdown or in case of willfully disconnecting the machine from its electricity supply.
- Therefore the subject matter of dependent claims 2 - 16 does not involve an inventive step as required by Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT.
- 2.7** The subject matter of the independent method claim 17 and its dependent claims 18 - 21, 24, 25 and 28 are not inventive for the same reasons as in paragraphs 2.1 - 2.6.
- 2.8** The adaption of the store to receive a particular kind of document cannot be seen as

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introducing technical features or steps to render the subject matter of the claim and the claim it refers to inventive. Neither is disclosed in the application how the store is adapted in order to receive a particular kind of documents and what technical problem is solved by this (Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT, Rule 6.3(a) PCT and Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT).

Therefore, the subject matter of dependent claim 22 does not involve an inventive step (Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT).

- 2.9** Where the container or the machine is, geographically, or conveyed to, does not seem to introduce technical features on which an inventive step could be based.

Therefore, the subject matter of the dependent claims 23, 26 and 27 does not involve an inventive step (Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT).